

Message Text

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USNMR/SHAPE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 VIENNA 10262

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

EO: 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM NATO

SUBJ: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: AD HOC GROUP MEETING DEC. 11, 1973

BEGIN SUMMARY: MBFR AHG ON DEC 11 BEGAN ITS MEETING WITH CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES: AN ADMINISTRATIVE SUB-GROUP WAS FORMED TO OVERSEE THE COMMON FACILITY AT THE RENN-WEG, AND THE BELGIAN DEPREP REPORTED ARRANGEMENTS FOR ENGAGEMENT OF CONFERENCE SECRETARIES AND INTERPRETERS AS DISCUSSED WITH HIS POLISH COUNTERPART AND THE AUSTRIANS. THE AHG HEARD REPORTS OF BILATERAL CONTACTS GIVEN BY THE GREEK, FRG, US, AND UK REPS. IT WAS AGREED THAT IN CONTACTS WITH THE EASTERN SIDE THE AHG SHOULD SEEK TO KEEP A CERTAIN FLEXIBILITY AS REGARDS ADVANCE SCHEDULING OF THE PLENARY MEETINGS IN JANUARY. THE WEEKLY REPORT OF THE AHG
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CHAIRMAN TO NAC WAS APPROVED BY THE GROUP. AFTER DISCUSSION, THE

AHG AGREED ON A REVISED TEXT OF THE FINAL ALLIED STATEMENT OF THE YEAR TO BE PRESENTED BY THE BELGIAN REP TO THE PLENARY MEETING ON DECEMBER 13. END SUMMARY

1. ADMINISTRATION. THE AD HOC GROUP MEETING ON DEC. 11 FIRST HEARD A PROPOSAL BY ITS CHAIRMAN (UK-AMB. ROSE) FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE SUB-GROUP TO HANDLE AFFAIRS ARISING FROM OPERATION OF THE NATO COMMON FACILITY ON THE RENNWEG. HE POINTED OUT THAT PROBLEMS OF SECURITY, COMMUNICATIONS, PLACEMENT OF NEWLY ARRIVED INTERNATIONAL STAFF MEMBERS, AND PUBLICATION OF DELEGATION LISTS COULD BE BETTER MANAGED BY SUCH A BODY, WHICH WOULD IN TURN REPORT TO THE AHG WHEN NECESSARY. THE SUB-GROUP WOULD BE UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE LOCAL SYG REPRESENTATIVE, AND WOULD BE OPEN-ENDED. THE AHG APPROVED THE CHAIRMAN'S PROPOSAL AND DELEGATIONS WERE ASKED TO PROVIDE NAMES OF THEIR REPRESENTATIVES TO THE SYG REP. IT WAS UNDERSTOOD THAT THE ADMINISTRATIVE SUB-GROUP WOULD BEGIN TO FUNCTION AFTER THE CHRISTMAS RECESS.

2. BELGIAN DEPREP WILLOT REINTRODUCED THE QUESTION OF CONTRACTING FOR SERVICES OF TRANSLATORS FOR THE PERIOD FOLLOWING THE CHRISTMAS BREAK, AS WELL AS AN ESTIMATE FOR THE MONTHLY RENTAL COSTS OF CONFERENCE BUILDING, ABOUT 500,000 SHILLINGS PER MONTH. HE MENTIONED THAT BY NOT HIRING THREE SECRETARIES WHICH PRESENTLY WERE NOT REQUIRED ABOUT 42,000 SHILLINGS PER MONTH COULD BE SAVED. THE AD HOC GROUP WAS THEN INFORMED THAT A DECISION ON TYPE OF CONTRACT TRANSLATORS SHOULD BE GIVEN WOULD BE NECESSARY BEFORE ADJOURNMENT.

3. THE AUSTRIANS THROUGH THE SERVICES OF THE CHIEF OF CONFERENCE FACILITIES OF UNIDO CAN PROVIDE EIGHT TRANSLATORS, FOUR OF WHOM ARE FOREIGN NATIONALS. THE WAGE SCALE OF A TRANSLATOR IS US\$ 92 A DAY PLUS US\$ 12 PER DIEM FOR FOREIGN NATIONALS. IN ORDER TO BE ABSOLUTELY SURE OF TRANSLATOR SERVICES WHEN REQUIRED, A THREE MONTHS CONTRACT RENEWABLE TO SIX WAS RECOMMENDED. WILLOT EXPLAINED THAT THERE WAS A GREAT SHORTAGE OF QUALIFIED TRANSLATORS. FURTHER MORE THE GOVERNMENTS REPRESENTED IN THE VIENNA MBFR TALKS HAD AGREED TO LET THE AUSTRIANS HANDLE THOSE ARRANGEMENTS. THE AD HOC GROUP REQUESTED THE BELGIAN DEPREP TO PUT HIS PROPOSAL IN WRITING FOR SUBMISSION AT NEXT MEETING SINCE NOT ALL MEMBERS WERE COMPLETELY CLEAR ON ALL OF THE DETAILS.

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4. FINALLY, WILLOT REQUESTED AD HOC GROUP GUIDANCE ON HOW TO ANSWER THE WARSAW PACT PROPOSAL TO HAVE THE CHAIRMAN ANNOUNCE WHEN RECESSING ON 13 DECEMBER THAT THE NEXT PLENARY MEETING DATE WOULD BE JANUARY 15. THE US REP SUGGESTED THAT POLISH REP STRULAK BE INFORMED OF THE ALLIED DESIRE TO DECIDE ON A JANUARY PLENARY DATE UPON RETURN FROM RECESS IN ORDER TO RETAIN FLEXIBILITY IN THE MATTER AND TO AVOID THE ALLIES BEING CONFRONTED WITH PREPARING A

PLENARY STATEMENT UNDER PRESSURE.

5. BILATERALS. THE FRG REP (BEHREND) PROVIDED AN ACCOUNT OF A DISCUSSION HE HAD HELD WITH THE POLISH REP (STRULAK). THE LATTER HAD SAID THE PRINCIPAL REASON HIS GOVERNMENT WAS SO INTERESTED IN ASSURANCES OF SECOND PHASE NATIONAL REDUCTIONS WAS THE EMPHASIS PLACED ON PROTECTION OF EVENTUAL EUROPEAN DEFENSE COOPERATION BY THE EUROPEAN ALLIES. FOR EXAMPLE, THE EUROPEAN ALLIES APPARENTLY DID NOT WANT ANY SUBCEILING IN THE COMMON CEILING. BEHREND IN TURN REPLIED THIS EMPHASIS WAS BASICALLY DUE TO AN ASSUMPTION BY THE ALLIES THAT A MAIN OBJECTIVE OF THE WARSAW PACT WAS IMPEDIMENT OF EUROPEAN POLITICAL UNION BY THE WARSAW PACT. STRULAK RESPONDED THAT PERHAPS THERE WERE MISAPPREHENSIONS ON BOTH SIDES. POLAND ACCEPTED THE EC AS A FACT OF LIFE, AND HE DENIED ANY INTENT TO

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MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

INHIBIT ITS GROWTH. HE DIDNOT INDICATE PARTICULAR HOSTILITY TO EUROPEAN DEFENSE EFFORTS, BUT ASKED WHAT EFFECT THESE WOULD HAVE ON POLAND. STRULAK ARGUED THAT FORCE REDUCTION CUTS MUST BE THE RESULT OF MULTILATERAL AND NOT BILATERAL AGREEMENTS; THIS WAS IMPORTANT FOR POLAND. CONSEQUENTLY, HE FAVORED THE IDEA OF A PACKAGE OF SYMBOLIC CUTS IN THE FIRST PHASE EMBRACING FORCES OF ALL PARTICIPANTS.

6. THE US DEPREP, NOTING STRULAK COMMENT ON SUB-CEILINGS WHICH DERIVED FROM ALLIED REPS COMMENTS TO KHLESTOV AND OTHERS ON THE SUBJECT, CAUTIONED AGAINST ALLIED REPS BEING DRAWN INTO PREMATURE DISCUSSIONS ON THE COMPOSITION OF PHASE II REDUCTIONS. CONFIDENTIAL

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THE UK REP (ROSE) SAID THAT A CONVERSATION HE HAD HELD WITH THE CZECH REP (AMB. LLEIN) HAD YIELDED NO RESULTS; IN FACT, KLEIN EVEN WHEN PRODDERD ON A WIDE RANGE OF MBFR ISSUES HAD OFFERED NO VIEWS. FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN ROSE INQUIRED ABOUT VERIFICATION PROCEDURES, KLEIN HAD REPLIED THAT DIPLOMATS SHOULD NOT BECOME INVOLVED IN SUCH MATTERS. BY KLEIN'S ACCOUNT THE EASTERN SIDE IN VIENNA HELD FEW MEETINGS.

7. GREEK REP DOUNTAS MENTIONED THAT IN A DISCUSSION SOVIET REP KHLESTOV HAD POSED A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS. KHLESTOV QUESTIONED CONCERN OF FLANK COUNTRIES OVER THE POSSIBILITY OF VISUALIZING THEIR SECURITY DIMINISHED AS A RESULT OF FORCE REDUCTIONS IN CENTRAL EUROPE. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE COULD POSSIBLY UNDERSTAND, THOUGH UNJUSTIFIED, THE TURKISH CONCERN BECAUSE IT SHARED A COMMON BORDER WITH THE SOVIET UNION. HE COULD ALSO UNDERSTAND THE OBJECTION OF WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES TO THE ACCEPTANCE OF NATIONAL CEILINGS, BECAUSE ACCEPTING NATIONAL COMMON CEILINGS MIGHT IN THE VIEW OF THE WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES INHIBIT THE PROCESS OF INTERGRATION OF EUROPEAN DEFENSE. BUT, HE CONCLUDED, HE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND GREEK CONCERN OVER REDUCTIONS IN CENTRAL EUROPE, SINCE GREECE HAD NO COMMON BORDER WITH THE SOVIET UNION. HE FURTHER STRESSED THAT IN AN ERA IN WHICH WE WITNESS THE STRATEGY OF MOBILITY THE IMPORTANCE OF THE FACTOR OF GEOGRAPHIC PROXIMITY HAS BEEN LESSENERD. KHLESTOV ALSO WANTED TO GET THE GREEK REP'S VIEWS ON QUESTIONS OF DISARMAMENT OF THE BALKAN AREA. HE THEN ASKED WHY A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES APPEARED LESS EAGER NOW TO REDUCE THAN DURING THE PRELIMINARY NEGOTIATIONS IN THE SPRING, AND QUESTIONED WHETHER THIS WAS NOT A RESULT OF UK INFLUENCE, SINCE

THE UK HAD NEVER BEEN TRULY INTERESTED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. KHESTOV EXPRESSED SOME PESSIMISM ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE TALKS. AS AN EXAMPLE HE MENTIONED THE ALLIED INSISTENCE ON TWO PHASES, WHILE "THE WHEN AND HOW THE SECOND PHASE WOULD BE REALIZED" REMAINED WHOLLY INDEFINITE. DOUNTAS ASKED WHETHER IF THIS POINT WERE CLARIFIED, THE SOVIETS WOULD ACCEPT THE TWO PHASE APPROACH. KHESTOV MERELY SMILED. HE FINALLY ASKED WHAT

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THE FLANK COUNTRIES DEMANDED FOR THEIR SECURITY SINCE THE EASTERN PROPOSAL CONTAINED A RELEVANT PROVISION IN THE PREAMBLE. MR. DOUNTAS REPLIED THAT WHEN THE TIME OF NEGOTIATIONS COMES THE ALLIES WILL BE MORE SPECIFIC IN THIS RESPECT. WHAT GREECE WANTS IS SOMETHING MORE CONCRETE AND DEFINITE THAN GENERAL CLAUSES.

8. THE AHG APPROVED THE CHAIRMAN'S WEEKLY REPORT TO NAC (TEXT SEPTEL)

9. THE CONCLUDING PRE-CHRISTMAS RECESS STATEMENT BY THE ALLIES IN SUPPORT OF THEIR MBFR PROPOSAL, TO BE PRESENTED AT THE DECEMBER 13 PLENARY BY THE BELGIAN REP (AMBASSADOR ADRIAENSSEN), AS PREPARED BY THE AHG DRAFTING GROUP WAS TAKEN UP AS THE FINAL ITEM OF BUSINESS. A NUMBER OF CHANGES WERE MADE, AND CERTAIN PASSAGES REARRANGED, AFTER WHICH THE AHG GAVE ITS APPROVAL (TEXT SEPTEL). COMMENT: THE PRESENTATION IS THE WEAKEST OF THE SERIES OF ALLIED PRESENTATIONS. THIS IS PARTLY BECAUSE THE GROUP HAD EARLIER INTENDED TO SUGGEST THAT THE TALKS SHOULD FOCUS ON US-SOVIET REDUCTIONS WHEN THEY RESUMED IN JANUARY AND FOUND NO CONVINCING CENTRAL THOUGHT TO CARRY THE PRESENTATION AS A SUBSTITUTE, AND PARTLY BECAUSE THE FIRST DRAFT WAS PREPARED BY BELGIAN REP ADRIAENSSEN WHO THE LEFT TWON IN ONE OF HIS FREQUENT ABSENCES, LEAVING AN OVERWORKED AND TENACIOUS WILLOT AS THE SOLE BELGIAN MEMBER OF HIS DELEGATION TO GET THROUGH HIS DRAFT WITHOUT CHANGE. END COMMENT. THE AHG WILL MAKE A COMPARISON OF THE ENGLISH AND FRENCH TEXTS AT ITS NEXT MEETING, TO BE HELD DECEMBER 12. AT THE REQUEST OF THE FRG, THE AHG WILL ALSO AT THAT MEETING ANALYSE THE STATEMENTS BY THE CZECHOSLOVAK AND HUNGARIAN REPS MADE AT THE DECEMBER 11 MBFR PLENARY MEETING (VIENNA 10211 AND 10210).MOWINCKEL

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